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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 9 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the official statement of the Ministry of Foreign Relations and Worship of the Argentine Republic on the occasion of the National Day of Affirmation of Argentina's Rights over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas, which is commemorated on 10 June each year (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 43, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) Martín **García Moritán**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

National Day of Affirmation of Argentina's Rights over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas

On 10 June 1829, the Argentine Government issued a Decree creating the Political and Military Commandancy for the Malvinas Islands. This decree was signed by the Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, Martin Rodriguez, and provided the following: "The Malvinas Islands and the islands adjacent to Cape Horn in the Atlantic Ocean shall be governed by a Political and Military Commander to be immediately appointed by the Government of the Republic".

Since the beginning of its independence process, in 1810, Argentina, having inherited the Spanish territories in the south of the continent, including the Malvinas Islands and the other islands in the South Atlantic, exercised its rights continuously, proceeding to enact legislation and to establish legal and administrative bodies to consolidate the full exercise of its sovereignty. Within this framework, the Argentine Government promoted the development of trade, the settlement of population and the establishment of a seat of government in the Islands.

This process was completed with the issuance of the Decree that we commemorate today, which created the Political and Military Commandancy for the Malvinas Islands to be headed by Luis Vernet, who moved to the islands and publicly exercised his authority and jurisdiction.

On 3 January 1833, the United Kingdom violated the integrity of the Argentine territory and illegally occupied the islands, forcibly removing both the population and the legitimate Argentine authorities established there. Since then, the islands have been under a sovereignty dispute between the two countries, recognized by the United Nations through UNGA Resolution 2065 (XX), adopted in 1965, as well as by several regional and multilateral fora.

Recovering the full exercise of Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands, as well as over the surrounding maritime areas, while respecting the way of life of the islanders and in accordance with international law, is a permanent and unrelinquished goal of the Argentine people, as established in the first temporary provision of the Argentine Constitution.

In accordance with this mandate, the Argentine Republic reiterates its invitation to the United Kingdom to resume negotiations on the question of the Malvinas Islands, as set forth by resolutions 2065 (XX), 37/9 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, while calling for the end of the unilateral activities of exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources in the area under dispute, as established in resolution 31/49, as well as for the removal of British military presence in the South Atlantic.

In this spirit, the Argentine Government reiterates once again its full willingness to engage in an open and substantial dialogue with the United Kingdom, on all matters, including sovereignty, as well as to strengthen the bilateral relation in order to identify possible areas of cooperation in the South Atlantic.

The Argentine Government once again reaffirms the imprescriptible sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich islands, as well as over the surrounding maritime areas, all of which are an integral part of the Argentine territory.

Buenos Aires, 10 June 2017